

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 02062 131824Z

61

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7882

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

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C O N F I D E N T I A L ATHENS 2062

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PDIP, GR

SUBJ: GREEK DIPLOMATIC APPOINTMENTS

CONSTANTINE STAVROPOULOS WAS SWORN IN AS FOREIGN MINISTRY UNDER SECRETARY ON MARCH 12. GOG ALSO ANNOUNCED THAT PRESENT MFA DIRECTOR OF CYPRUS-TURKISH AFFAIRS, ANDREAS METAXAS, WILL BECOME GREEK AMBASSADOR TO INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AT GENEVA. METAXAS IS EXPECTED TO ASSUME HIS DUEITS IN GENEVA WITHIN A WEEK OR SO. BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION FOLLOWS ON BOTH.

2. STAVROPOULOS, 69, IS A MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT (APPOINTED "AT LARGE" RATHER THAN ELECTED) FOR THE NEW DEMOCRACY PARTY. HE RESIGNED HIS SENIOR POSITION AS UN UNDER SECRETARY LAST OCTOBER TO RETURN TO GREECE AT THE REQUEST OF PRIME MINISTER CARAMANLIS. HIS APPOINTMENT AS UNDER SECRETARY HAS BEEN EXPECTED SINCE THE FORMER UNDER SECRETARY, VARVITSIOTIS, WAS NAMED MINISTER OF COMMERCE IN LATE FEBRUARY.

3. BEFORE LEAVING NEW YORK, STAVROPOULOS INDICATED TO AMBASSADOR SCALI HE EXPECTED TO BE GIVEN A MINISTERIAL POST AND COULD WIND UP AS FOREIGN MINISTER. HOWEVER, UNTIL
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 02062 131824Z

THIS WEEK'S APPOINTMENT CARAMANLIS HAS KEPT STAVROPOULOS PRETTY MUCH IN THE WINGS, ALTHOUGH HE DID SEND HIM TO

NEW YORK FOR THE RECENT UNSC MEETINGS ON CYPRUS.
(STAVROPOULOS WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF THE GREEK DELEGATION
TO THE CONSULTATIVE ASSEMBLY OF THE COUNCIL OF EUROPE
AT STRASBOURG EARLIER THIS YEAR.)

4. STAVROPOULOS IS A COSMOPOLITAN, SMOOTH IN HIS
OPERATING METHODS, AND WELL TRAINED IN TACE, OBJECTIVITY
AND FLEXIBILITY FROM HIS LONG EXPERIENCE IN THE UN
SECRETARIAT. DESPITE HIS LONG ABSENCE FROM GREECE, HE
HAS REMAINED ON GOOD TERMS WITH MOST OF THE IMPORTANT
GREEK POLITICAL LEADERS. STAVROPOULOS WOULD BE A LIKELY
CANDIDATE FOR FOREIGN MINISTER SHOULD BITSIOS LEAVE THIS POST.

5. ANDREAS METAXAS, ABOUT 48 IS A VERY POLISHED GREEK
CAREER DIPLOMAT. HE HAS BEEN MFA DIRECTOR OF CYPRUS/TURKISH
AFFAIRS FOR THE PAST TWO YEARS. METAXAS TOOK OVER THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY'S MOST TRYING DESK IN A PERIOD OF
INCREASING AMBIGUITY IN GREEK-CYPRUS RELATIONS AND
REMAINED ON THE JOB DURING THE JULY/AUGUST 1974 CYPRUS
CRISIS WHICH BROUGHT ON GREECE'S GRAVEST FOREIGN
POLICY REVERSAL SINCE WORLD WAR II. METAXAS IS
RESPECTED IN THE ATHENS DIPLOMATIC CORPS FOR HIS
SANG FROID AND REASONABLE ADVOCACY OF HIS NATION'S
POLICY TOWARD CYPRUS AND TURKEY. HE ENJOYS EQUAL
ESTEEM WITHIN THE GREEK FOREIGN SERVICE AND SERVED
AS ADVISOR TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER DURING LAST SUMMER'S
GENEVA MEETINGS.

6. WHILE METAXAS IS READILY APPROACHABLE, HE LIMITED
HIS EXCHANGES WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS INITIALLY TO A STRICTLY
PROFESSIONAL RELATIONSHIP BUT THIS BECAME LESS FORMA
SUBSEQUENTLY. DURING THE NUMEROUS DISCUSSIONS
EMBASSY OFFICERS HAD WITH METAXAS HE INVARIABLY
APPEARED WELL-PREPARED, COOPERATIVE AND REFLECTIVE.
BY DEMEANOR AND STYLE HE RESEMBLES TO A LARGE DEGREE THE
OLD SCHOOL EUROPEAN DIPLOMAT.
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TAGS: PDIP, GR, (STAVROPOULOS, CONSTANTINE), (METAXAS, ANDREAS)
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